

Spring Music Festival. Hot Springs is also home to Oaklawn Park, which offers thoroughbred racing each, spring and simulcast racing throughout the year.

I salute the residents of Hot Springs for their efforts to maintain the heritage, beauty, and history of their community. I join all Arkansans to express my pride in this jewel of Arkansas.●

RECOGNIZING MAINE MANUFACTURING LLC

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, manufacturers across the country have been hit hard in this current downturn. In fact, the manufacturing sector has lost 2.1 million jobs since the beginning of the recession in December 2007—roughly 15 percent of its total employment. That is why it is heartening to see that a small manufacturing company in my home State of Maine is hiring new employees and seeking to grow its product line. Today I recognize this firm, Maine Manufacturing LLC in Sanford, for the tremendous work it is doing to hasten an economic recovery in the region by putting people back to work.

Maine Manufacturing, which specializes in the production of several disposable laboratory supplies like filters and centrifuge tubes frequently used in research and university labs as well as pharmaceutical and biotech companies, was founded in 2008 by Craig Cunningham, who formerly served as the director of engineering for Whatman Inc.'s Sanford plant. Whatman, a British laboratory equipment maker that is now part of GE Healthcare, announced in September 2008 that it would be shutting its Sanford plant over the course of the next year, leaving over 200 employees without work. Seeking to mitigate the negative effects in the local community, Mr. Cunningham and his colleague, William Emhiser, requested that GE Healthcare operate the plant until early 2010 and keep roughly 70 employees until that time, allowing Maine Manufacturing to fully take over the facility. GE Healthcare agreed, and on January 4, 2010 Maine Manufacturing took over six product lines from the company.

Mr. Cunningham's company started very small, with three full-time employees and four part-time workers just a year ago. To grow his business, Mr. Cunningham applied for and received a \$100,000 community development block grant, which provided working capital to the company and afforded his business the opportunity to purchase critical new equipment. The grant also allowed Maine Manufacturing to create 12 new jobs. To further increase its workforce, the company recently offered jobs to 66 employees who previously worked at GE Healthcare. While creating quality jobs for Mainers, Maine Manufacturing is simultaneously becoming a major supplier to GE Healthcare, producing filters and other parts the company uses

to manufacture larger products. Additionally, the company hopes to expand even more in the coming years to become a recognized leader in its industry.

Because the recession has hit small businesses the hardest, it is all the more impressive that Maine Manufacturing has made such tremendous strides in growing, expanding, and hiring over the past year. These firms employ just over half of all employees in the private sector, and Maine Manufacturing has provided them with a model for successful job growth in coming years, which will be essential to the revitalization of the American economy. I am grateful for the actions of Craig Cunningham and William Emhiser to create necessary jobs for Maine workers, and I look forward to hearing future good news about their impressive company.●

RECOGNIZING THE UNDERWATER OPERATIONS INDUSTRY

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the underwater operations industry, especially the Marine Technology Society and the Association of Diving Contractors International.

The Marine Technology Society was founded in 1963. Throughout its 40-plus years of existence, it has stayed true to its guiding purpose: "to promote awareness, understanding, advancement and application of marine technology." Founded in 1968 the Association of Diving Contractors played an essential role in creating the first safety standards for commercial divers. The association today has member companies hailing from 41 different nations all pledging to abide by the ADCI Consensus Standards for Commercial Diving Operations.

The commercial underwater industry encompasses the support of deep sea divers, ROV operators, technical support, retail dealers, the shipping industry, the energy industry, universities, research facilities, equipment manufacturers, families, and a support system that extends to all avenues of the labor market. This diverse community and unique segment of industry work tirelessly toward maintaining and supporting safe underwater operations throughout the world. The commercial underwater industry affects the development of dams, bridges, oil platforms, pipelines, underwater, geological research, outer space, and even the entertainment industry.

The industry is especially vital to Louisiana. From our seafood industry to one of the Nation's largest provider of offshore energy, our waterways and shorelines are of great importance to our economy. Underwater operations allow these industries to run smoothly.

Underwater operations conducted from the deepest seas to inland waterways throughout the world are a vital component in ongoing industrial development globally. It is important that

Federal and State government and citizens worldwide recognize the value of the underwater operations industry to the continued progress of humanity.

Thus, today, I am proud to applaud such an important industry, and thank them for their contributions to the State of Louisiana, our Nation, and the rest of the world.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests a concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2843. An act to provide for the joint appointment of the Architect of the Capitol by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives and Senate, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4495. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the "Jim Kolbe Post Office".

At 4:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 45) increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 5:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

H.R. 730. An act to strengthen efforts in the Department of Homeland Security to develop nuclear forensics capabilities to permit attribution of the source of nuclear material, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 45. Joint resolution increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.